United Nations S/2003/763

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2003
English
Original: Spanish

Letter dated 28 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the Mexican presidency of the Security Council for April 2003 (see annex). The content of the assessment was discussed with other members of the Council, but it was prepared strictly under my responsibility and should not be regarded as representing the Council's views.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Adolfo **Aguilar Zinser**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

03-44335 (E) 010803 060803

Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Mexico (April 2003)

Introduction

Mexico held the presidency of the Security Council of the United Nations in April 2003. During that time, the Council considered the maintenance of international peace and security, examining relevant issues in Africa, Asia and Europe. It also conducted thematic discussions focusing on cooperation between the Council and regional organizations, international efforts to combat terrorism and the food crisis in Africa. The Council gave its wrap-up discussion for the month of April the theme "The role of the United Nations in post-conflict situations". On 11 April, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Luis Ernesto Derbez, presided over a public meeting of the Security Council on the item entitled "The Security Council and regional organizations: facing the new challenges to international peace and security".

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the activities of the Council in April 2003; it is divided into five sections, covering the overview of the month's business, Mexico's objectives, the situation in Africa, Asia and Europe, the thematic issues and concluding remarks.

Overview

The Security Council's programme for April was busy, as the following summary shows: there were 13 formal meetings, two private meetings and 16 consultation meetings. Five resolutions and one presidential statement were adopted (see appendix I); and 10 statements were made to the press (see appendix II).

Objectives of Mexico

One of the main aims of the Mexican presidency was to strengthen multilateralism in order to promote agreement on the application of clear rules and to move towards unity in the Council. To that end, it encouraged discussion within the Council on the humanitarian situation in Iraq, culminating in the adoption by consensus of resolution 1476 (2003).

The presidency also facilitated dialogue among the members of the Council regarding issues on the agenda, organizing consultations to discuss Council decisions aimed at maintaining international peace and security. The cases taken up included Burundi, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Somalia and the Middle East.

Reflecting the commitment to making the work of the Council more transparent, Mexico organized a meeting on the item entitled "The Security Council and regional organizations: facing the new challenges to international peace and

security", involving the main regional and subregional organizations dealing with matters connected with peace and security. The aim was to promote unobstructed dialogue, for the sake of better coordination between the Council and regional and subregional organizations regarding the new challenges facing the international community.

With the same aim in mind, the wrap-up meeting emphasized the role of the United Nations in post-conflict situations, and a parallel event regarding links between the Security Council and civil society was held in coordination with the International Peace Academy.

The situation in Africa, Asia and Europe

In April, the Security Council discussed a number of specific situations, in line with the programme which its members had approved. A summary of the issues discussed can be found below.

Africa

Burundi

The Security Council considered the situation in Burundi twice. On 3 April, under "Other matters", it examined a draft statement to the press, prepared by France, welcoming the decision of the President of Burundi, Pierre Buyoya, to handover office to the Vice-President on 1 May 2003. The President of the Council delivered the statement to the media.

On 16 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Berhanu Dinka, briefed the Council on the latest developments in that country's transition process. He spoke on issues including the parties' commitment to promoting the peace process, President Buyoya's political will to continue with the transition, the return to the country of large numbers of refugees, the adoption by the Transitional National Assembly of the law on the punishment of crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and the urgent need for financial resources from the international community to support the activities of the transitional Government and to meet the immediate needs of the population.

The members of the Council agreed on the significance of the announcement by President Buyoya that he would adhere to his commitment to the transition process and handover power to the Vice-President on 1 May 2003. They stressed the need to deal with the disarmament and demobilization of former combatants and paid tribute to the African Union for its planned mission in Burundi. During the consultations, the Council agreed on a press statement which was delivered by the President.

Côte d'Ivoire

In April, the Security Council considered the situation in Côte d'Ivoire at three informal consultation sessions and one public meeting attended by a number of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

On 7 April, the Council held informal consultations on the report of the Secretary-General on Côte d'Ivoire (S/2003/374), which was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi. The Council considered the Secretary-General's proposal for a mission to be called the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI); its mandate would be as described in section IX of the report. The members of the Council expressed their readiness to negotiate on the basis of the draft resolution for the establishment of MINUCI prepared by France. Because the ECOWAS force which was monitoring the ceasefire in Côte d'Ivoire was operating under severe financial and logistical constraints, they called on the international community to assist in overcoming those problems. Furthermore, because of the situation in Liberia, they emphasized the need to take a regional view of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire, and expressed their concern about the humanitarian situation and human rights violations in the country.

During informal consultations on 15 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Albert Tevoedjre, described the latest developments in the situation, saying that the ceasefire had generally held, and that political progress had been made, even though the security situation in the west of the country was precarious. He cited as important political steps the facts that the Government of National Unity had met on 3 April, that a Government was gradually being put together and that the President was delegating power to the Prime Minister. The humanitarian and human rights situations were difficult, however, especially for internally displaced persons and refugees.

The Council members called on the parties to continue to move the Linas-Marcoussis process forward, and to respect human rights and international humanitarian law. They also expressed their deep concern at the use of mercenaries, other foreign-armed elements and forced recruitment, including recruitment of children, and demanded that all parties refrain from such practices immediately. They renewed their support for the French and ECOWAS forces and called on the donor community to honour its financial pledges to help the ECOWAS force.

On 29 April, the Council held a formal meeting to analyse the political situation in Côte d'Ivoire. It was attended by the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, Anna Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, Bamba Mamadou, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Guinea, François Lonsény Fall, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Sule Lamido, and the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, Mohamed Ibn Chambas.

At that meeting, the Secretary-General thanked ECOWAS and France for their important role in pursuing peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire and supporting the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement: their involvement had been vital in avoiding escalation of the clashes. The Ministers stressed that one of the factors impeding a return to normal life in the country was the circulation of a large number of firearms and the porous nature of the borders, which made it easier for Liberian mercenaries to continue crossing into Côte d'Ivoire and undermining the fragile stability which had been built up there. The Ministers asked for the support of the international community to pave the way for a return to peace and normal life in Côte d'Ivoire and for sound, free and fair elections to be held at the end of the process (in October 2005) to put an end to the crisis.

The Council members emphasized that the adoption of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement was a step forward on the path to peace, and its implementation should continue to be encouraged. In the short term, domestic security and border control would need to be improved; that would require an increase in the strength of the ECOWAS force on the ground. They undertook to continue taking a regional approach which encompassed the situation of Sierra Leone and Liberia, and appealed to the donor community to step up economic aid to Côte d'Ivoire.

Later, at a private meeting, the Council continued consideration of the matter with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the ECOWAS member States, increasing mutual understanding. The members of the Council welcomed the efforts by ECOWAS to solve the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and supported the appeal of the ECOWAS ministerial delegation to Member States to provide the ECOWAS force in Côte d'Ivoire with logistical and financial support.

Liberia

On 28 April, the Security Council held informal consultations on the second report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1408 (2002) on Liberia (S/2003/466). The report was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh.

The members of the Council welcomed the expanded new mandate of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia. They expressed their concern at the deterioration of the situation in Liberia, the intensification of the armed conflict between the government forces and the rebel groups, the persistent human rights violations and the recruitment of children to the ranks of the contending groups.

The members of the Council spoke of the grave humanitarian crisis of the Liberian people, in particular the internally displaced persons and the refugees. In that context, they appealed to the parties to the conflict to negotiate a ceasefire agreement and resolve their differences through dialogue. They stated that the Security Council mission which would visit the West Africa region, especially Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, would have as its goal, jointly with the African Union, ECOWAS and the International Contact Group on Liberia, the promotion of a ceasefire and the initiation of a process leading to peace for the peoples of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and building peace and stability throughout the region.

The members of the Council expressed their concern at the withdrawal of the humanitarian workers and appealed to the rebel groups and the Government to permit unrestricted access by humanitarian workers to areas in which internally displaced persons and refugees had settled, to respect human rights and to end the attacks on the civilian population. The members of the Council also considered the question of possible United Nations electoral assistance to Liberia. The delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft resolution extending the regime of sanctions against Liberia for a further 12 months.

Central African region

On 17 April, in consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, briefed the members of the Security Council on the action which the Secretary-General was planning for Central Africa. He

recapitulated the principal elements of the statement by the President of 31 October 2002 (S/PRST/2002/31) and briefly reviewed why the region had not achieved the necessary political stability to improve its economic conditions.

He recognized that the Central African States had made efforts to achieve peace and stability sustained by development, and he reported on the decision of the Secretary-General to dispatch an inter-agency evaluation mission, in which various regional agencies and organizations would participate, with a view to identifying the issues relating to peace, security, development, economic needs and the conditions for promoting democracy and human rights.

The members of the Council recognized the disparities among the countries of the region: whereas some were richly endowed with resources, others lacked the means to provide adequately for their populations. They noted that the countries shared some negative attributes, such as banditry, organized armed gangs and the illegal exploitation of resources.

They expressed their concern at the economic stagnation and the repeated political crises in the region. They stressed that the international and regional organizations had a more active role to play in conflict settlement. They observed that attention to and respect for human rights should be a priority area and requested its inclusion in the mandates of peacekeeping and peace-building operations. They asked for access by humanitarian organizations to be ensured.

They noted that respect for peace was not the sole responsibility of international, regional and subregional organizations but rather a joint responsibility of the States of the region. They supported the decision of the Secretary-General to send a multidisciplinary mission and requested a report by September. At the end of the meeting, with the consent of the members of the Council, the President of the Security Council made a statement to the press.

Central African Republic

On 17 April, the members of the Security Council considered the situation in the Central African Republic. The situation was updated for them by the head of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic, General Lamine Cissé.

General Cissé gave an evaluation of the situation after the coup d'état which had brought General François Bozizé to power in March and of the initial steps taken by the de facto Government which General Bozizé had constituted, headed by a prime minister who commanded wide respect in the country. He observed that General Bozizé had failed to indicate clearly how long the transitional Government intended to remain in power.

He said that General Bozizé had conducted peace and reconciliation efforts and had called for a national dialogue of reconciliation. He stated that stability was returning slowly to the country, even though pillaging and serious human rights violations remained an issue. He expressed his concern at the fact that many of the followers of President Patassé had gone into hiding owing to the absence of security guarantees.

He noted that the 400 soldiers from Chad who had collected weapons jointly with the army of the Central African Republic remained in the country. He said that

the new authorities were prepared to tackle the perpetual problem of weapons. He spoke about the aid which donors had provided to the Central African Republic to cover arrears of salaries, pensions and fellowships, and emphasized the need for the Bretton Woods institutions to come to the country's assistance in dealing with the economic crisis.

While the members of the Council condemned the coup d'état, they viewed as positive the course of events in the Central African Republic. They referred to the amnesty which the new Government had granted to the former armed forces in response to the latter's request. They noted that General Bozizé had called for a national dialogue and that a transitional Government had been appointed.

The members of the Council requested the authorities to draw up a timetable for the transition. They appealed to the members of the international community to support the political and reconstruction process, especially the general elections, and the return to peace and democracy. They requested the re-establishment of the Central African Republic/Chad joint commission. At the end of the meeting, the President of the Council made a statement to the press.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 8 April, the members of the Security Council heard the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, who gave a briefing on the recent events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Under-Secretary-General recognized the importance to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the final meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue and the launching of the activities of the Ituri Pacification Commission. He spoke about the finding of further mass graves in Ituri, the reports of mass killings in Drodro and the dispatch of a fact-finding team from the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) which would report its findings to the Council.

He said that the situation continued to be volatile in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in the eastern part, and that human rights violations continued to give rise to concern. He reported that MONUC was working on the elaboration of proposals designed to provide support to the post-war activities and said that the next report of the Secretary-General would contain preliminary recommendations, in particular with respect to security questions.

The members of the Council welcomed the political advances made and emphasized that all acts of violence and military confrontations that could jeopardize the peace process must end immediately. They stated that the Ugandan troops should withdraw from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The members of the Council agreed on the wording of a statement to the press on this question. On the initiative of Mexico, a paragraph was included in which the members of the Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct an investigation into the violent events in Ituri. The United Nations Secretariat had taken the necessary steps to launch the investigation, whose findings would be submitted to the Security Council.

Somalia

On 8 April, the Security Council adopted resolution 1474 (2003) in which it welcomed the report of the Panel of Experts (S/2003/223) established by resolution 1425 (2002) to evaluate the embargo on arms and military equipment imposed on Somalia pursuant to resolution 733 (1992), and decided that the Panel of Experts should be re-established for a period of six months, based in Nairobi, in order to continue investigating the violations of the embargo and to refine the recommendations submitted in its report.

The Council observed with regret that the arms embargo had been breached constantly. The Council took note with interest of the observations and recommendations in the report and expressed its intention of giving full consideration to the report. It reiterated its firm support for the national reconciliation process in Somalia.

The Council received the report of the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) on the report of the Panel of Experts. It provided a list of possible future measures for implementation, to be revised by the Council once the Panel re-established by resolution 1474 (2003) had expanded its proposals.

Asia

Letter dated 12 February 2003 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency

On 9 April, consultations were held on a letter dated 12 February 2003 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. At the end of the consultations, the President of the Security Council, replying to questions from the press, said that the members of the Council had held consultations on the nuclear issue in relation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and had expressed their concern; the Council would continue to monitor the matter.

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

On 3 April, the Deputy Secretary-General, accompanied by the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Ramiro Lopez da Silva, provided the Security Council with a preliminary evaluation of the humanitarian situation in Iraq. The Deputy Secretary-General referred in particular to the positive response to the flash appeal which the Secretary-General had made on 28 March. She also referred to the logistical changes made to the oil-for-food programme in accordance with resolution 1472 (2003).

The members of the Council emphasized that, despite the presence in Iraq of local United Nations staff, the Secretary-General had a coordinating role to play in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. At the end of the meeting, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press.

On 7 April, the Secretary-General informed Council members of his decision to appoint Rafeeuddin Ahmed as his Special Adviser on matters related to the United Nations potential role in post-war Iraq.

On 24 April, the High-level Coordinator, Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, introduced the eleventh report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999). He emphasized that the

new circumstances in Iraq would open up opportunities for clarifying what had happened to the Kuwaitis and citizens of other nationalities who had disappeared in the course of the 1991 war. The members of the Council expressed their support and appreciation to Ambassador Vorontsov for his work and to the International Committee of the Red Cross. They appealed to all countries, organizations and individuals in a position to assist the investigations to provide any information that would help identify the whereabouts of the missing persons.

United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission

On 22 April, the members of the Council held consultations with the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Hans Blix, and the representative in New York of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The two officials said that they were awaiting a decision by the Council on the advisability of returning to Iraq to conduct inspections. The Executive Chairman indicated that, in accordance with the relevant resolutions, he would submit his report in June on the understanding that he would vacate his post at the head of UNMOVIC during that month.

United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

On 2 April, the Council held a closed meeting with the countries contributing troops to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations introduced the report of the Secretary-General on UNIKOM for the period from 16 September 2002 to 21 March 2003 (S/2003/393).

The Assistant Secretary-General gave particulars of the suspension of activities of UNIKOM and reported that most of the personnel making up the Mission had been repatriated or reassigned. He said that a support contingent would be maintained in Kuwait and would perform liaison functions and provide support to other United Nations entities. At the end of the meeting, an official communiqué was issued.

On 3 April, the members of the Council held consultations on UNIKOM. They were in agreement regarding support for the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of UNIKOM for three months. To that end, the Presidency of the Council sent a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2003/400).

Oil-for-food programme

On 8 April, the members of the Council held consultations on the implementation of the oil-for-food programme. The Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme, Benon Sevan, briefed the members of the Council on the steps the Office was taking to implement resolution 1472 (2003). He referred to the identification of priority and in-transit items, to the difficulties of communication with suppliers and the establishment of alternative unloading points in neighbouring countries for food and medicines.

The members of the Council took note of the operational and logistic issues relating to the implementation of the humanitarian programme and encouraged the

Executive Director to maintain a constant flow of information to the Council through the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990).

On 22 April, members of the Council held consultations on the oil-for-food programme. The Executive Director referred to the implementation of resolution 1472 (2003) and to the administrative and technical adjustments to purchase contracts authorized for Iraq. He urged the Council to authorize an extension of the 45-day period provided for in paragraph 4 of the resolution in order to facilitate the necessary adjustments. The Mexican delegation circulated a draft resolution of a technical nature which would permit the extension of the original 45-day period until 3 June 2003, the date on which the current phase of the oil-for-food programme would end.

On 24 April, at a formal meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1476 (2003), extending until 3 June 2003 the provisions of paragraph 4 of resolution 1472 (2003).

Arria-forumla meeting

The Mexican presidency facilitated the Pakistan delegation's initiative to organize an Arria-formula meeting on 9 April, focusing on the humanitarian situation in Iraq following the beginning of the conflict. The Council members and the representatives of leading international non-governmental organizations long involved in humanitarian relief work in Iraq — namely, Care International, Save the Children, Amnesty International, Médicines sans Frontières and OXFAM — participated. The meeting contributed to better awareness of the humanitarian situation on the ground in Iraq and led to a productive dialogue between those civil society groups and members of the Council, including those forming part of the coalition.

Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 16 April a formal meeting was held at which the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Danilo Türk, summarized for the members of the Security Council events subsequent to the meeting held on 19 March 2003.

The Assistant Secretary-General stated that, despite the obstacles and the situation on the ground, as soon as the new Palestinian Cabinet was confirmed the Quartet would submit the road map to the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. He emphasized that the parties and the international community should be ready to follow the course outlined in the road map, which placed responsibilities on each of them. He said that the Palestinian Authority should take immediate and effective steps against terrorism and the Government of Israel should alleviate the humanitarian situation of Palestinians by lifting internal blockades and the curfew regime. He added that the international community should lend that initiative its full, consistent and impartial support.

He stressed that the road map continued to offer the best prospect of achieving the vision of two States — a secure and prosperous State of Israel and an independent, viable, sovereign and democratic Palestinian State. With respect to the situation on the ground, he reported that from September 2000 to date, the number of deaths had amounted to 2,566 Palestinians and 766 Israelis. He referred in particular to the construction by Israel of a "separation wall", which had serious

political and economic consequences for Palestinians. He said that he would shortly be submitting a report on the subject. He also stated that the situation along the Blue Line had remained calm, but there had nevertheless been a certain amount of tensi_n as a result of Israel's air raids into Lebanon and the Hezbollah anti-aircraft fire.

After the formal meeting, the members of the Council held consultations on the subject. They were in favour of the early submission of the road map and of the confirmation of the new Palestinian Cabinet. Members of the Council regretted the cycle of violence and condemned the Palestinian suicide attacks, as well as the excessive use of force by Israel. They also referred to avoiding actions that would lead to an escalation of violence on the Blue Line.

On 16 April, under "Other matters", the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic submitted on behalf of the Group of Arab States a draft resolution on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East that had been considered at the expert level. The Syrian delegation said that the current situation in the region afforded an opportunity to advance a common cause that had been on the agenda of the United Nations for a long time, and explained that his Government's intention in submitting the proposal was to take up both the issue of weapons of mass destruction and that of terrorist threats.

Timor-Leste

On 4 April the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1473 (2003) in which it decided that the composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) would be adjusted in line with the Secretary-General's recommendations. It also decided to include an international police unit in UNMISET for one year and to retain a greater monitoring and advisory presence in districts where policing authority had been handed over to the Timor-Leste Police Force, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council by 20 May 2003 a detailed plan for the drawing up of a revised schedule for the downsizing of the military component of UNMISET.

On 28 April the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Kamalesh Sharma, informed the Council that it would be necessary to redouble efforts in the areas of dispensation of justice, human rights protection, internal security and support for the local economy. He said that once UNMISET was concluded, international assistance would continue to be required.

Europe

Cyprus

On 10 April, the Security Council held a formal meeting, immediately followed by consultations, to consider the situation in Cyprus. At the formal meeting the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General, Álvaro de Soto, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2003/398). The report covered the action taken by the Secretary-General between 1999 and March 2003, when the proposed deadline for the Greek and Turkish Cypriot parties to achieve a reunification agreement expired.

During the consultations, the members of the Council expressed regret that agreement had not been reached between the parties, and thanked the Secretary-General for his efforts throughout the entire negotiating process.

On 14 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1475 (2003), the draft of which was submitted by Bulgaria, France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Russian Federation made a statement after the vote.

Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro

On 14 April the President of the Security Council issued a statement to the press supporting the decision of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo, Michael Steiner, to declare as having no legal effect the Higher Education Act approved by the Kosovo Assembly on 3 April 2003. He also called on the provisional institutions of self-government to act within the range of their competencies in conformity with resolution 1244 (1999) and the Constitutional Framework.

On 23 April the Council held a formal meeting on the implementation of the Council's resolutions on Kosovo at which the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, reported on the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo in the first three months of 2003. The Assistant Secretary-General based part of his presentation on the Secretary-General's most recent report on the subject (S/2003/421), and also provided more recent additional information.

Among other aspects, the Assistant Secretary-General referred to the following issues: the process of transfer of additional responsibilities to the provisional institutions of autonomous self-government in Kosovo; the increase in ethnically motivated violence and its impact on freedom of movement and the process of sustainable return of displaced persons; the recent blowing up of a rural railway bridge in the north of Kosovo by an Albanian extremist group; the need for the Belgrade and Pristina authorities to initiate direct dialogue on practical matters; and the growing tendency, on the part of both the elected Kosovo Albanian representatives and the Kosovo Serbs, to issue pronouncements and/or take unilateral action contrary to the spirit of resolution 1244 (1999) and the Constitutional Framework.

For their part, the members of the Council supported the process of transfer of competencies, while stressing the importance of that process being carried out in conformity with resolution 1244 (1999) and chapters 5 and 8 of the Constitutional Framework. They also reiterated their support for the policy of "standards before status", stressed the importance of Belgrade and Pristina initiating direct dialogue as soon as possible, and urged the leaders of the Albanian majority and Serbian minority in Kosovo to avoid extremist action or statements. Concern was expressed at the increase in ethnic violence, and at the absence of freedom of movement for minorities and of appropriate conditions for the sustainable return of displaced persons.

Thematic issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 4 April the Security Council held a formal meeting to receive the last report from Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The Council paid tribute to Ambassador Greenstock's outstanding leadership of the Committee and his conviction that the United Nations should play a central role in combating terrorism. The Council recognized that Ambassador Greenstock had laid a solid foundation for the Committee's future work and thanked him for his vision in initiating and promoting a dialogue with other international, regional and subregional organizations.

Reporting to the Council on the Committee's work, the Chairman of the Committee said that the Committee was working in accordance with the ministerial instructions for the Committee pursuant to resolution 1456 (2003). He also presented the work programme for the seventh 90-day period (S/2003/387). He stressed the excellent cooperation established with the vast majority of Member States and the beginnings of a world network to confront terrorism. He also commented that the Committee would have to move forward with sensitivity and firmness when it went on to the phase of supervising the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

Ambassador Greenstock referred to the new threats such as those posed by the possible access of terrorists to materials used to manufacture chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and other lethal weapons. He also referred to the global dimensions the campaign against terrorism within the framework of the United Nations had acquired. Accordingly, he stated that the meeting held on 6 March with some 60 international, regional and subregional organizations had been an important step in the establishment of a worldwide network.

On a personal level, he stressed the change the Committee's existence had brought about by prompting legislative and administrative changes intended to combat terrorism at the national level. He also considered that the Committee had opened up the possibility of making a collective effort, and referred to the need for the various international and regional organizations to generate the institutional capacity for combating terrorism.

He also said that the Committee itself had recognized the link that existed between resolution 1373 (2001) and other obligations, particularly those relating to human rights.

To conclude the meeting, the President read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2003/3), in which the Council welcomed the briefing by the Chairman of the Committee. The Council welcomed the Permanent Representative of Spain, Ambassador Inocencio Arias, who had taken over the chairmanship of the Committee, and confirmed the continuation in office of Ambassador Gaspar Martins (Angola), Ambassador Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) and Ambassador Lavrov (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee.

The members of the Council invited the Committee to continue reporting on its activities at regular intervals and expressed their intention to review the structure and activities of the Committee no later than 4 October 2003.

Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999)

On 17 April, in consultations, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés, the representative of Chile on the Security Council, presented the first report for 2003 pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1455 (2003).

In the course of his report, Ambassador Valdés reviewed the activities of the Committee and the Monitoring Group since the adoption of resolution 1455 (2003) and outlined the action to be taken. The Chairman of the Monitoring Group, Michael Chandler, gave a briefing on the Group's activities.

After hearing the Chairman of the Committee, the members of the Council recognized the importance of the Committee in combating al-Qa'idah and the Taliban and bodies associated with them. They stressed the global nature of the Committee and commended the work of Ambassador Valdés as its Chairman.

Annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

On 24 April, in consultations, under the item "Other matters", the members of the Security Council endorsed the decision of the informal working group of the Security Council on documentation and procedural issues to support a proposal submitted by Mexico to request the delegation of the United Kingdom to assume responsibility for drawing up the introduction covering the period from 1 August 2002 to 30 April 2003. It was agreed that Spain would continue that exercise in order to include the information relating to the period from 1 May to 31 July 2003. That exercise would be undertaken on the understanding that the inputs of the United Kingdom and Spain would be integrated into a consolidated document that would be considered by the working group in July.

High-level meeting: the Security Council and regional organizations — facing the new challenges to international peace and security

On 11 April the Security Council held a high-level meeting on the item entitled "The Security Council and regional organizations: facing the new challenges to international peace and security". The meeting was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Luis Ernesto Derbez, and was attended by the Secretary-General and by the heads or representatives of the African Union, the Organization of American States, the League of Arab States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Economic Community of West African States.

The purpose of the meeting was to learn the experience gained by each of the regional organizations represented at it, particularly with respect to specific capacity, early warning mechanisms, conflict prevention, management and resolution, and the possibilities of information exchange.

The participants in the meeting identified some of the challenges and threats affecting international peace and security; they reviewed the experience of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the area of

maintenance of international peace and security and made suggestions regarding how to strengthen that cooperation.

The participants reiterated that the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, bore the primary responsibility for ensuring international peace and security; at the same time the increasingly important role played by regional and subregional organizations in those tasks was recognized. There was broad agreement that cooperation between the Security Council and regional organizations should be carried out in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, particularly Chapter VIII, but at the same time it was recognized that there was an urgent need to develop a capacity for rapid response to the new and changing challenges the international community faced.

The proposals made at the meeting were incorporated into a letter from the President of the Council to the Secretary-General (S/2003/506). They were: (a) to carry out on a regular basis a high-level dialogue between the Security Council and regional organizations; (b) to improve the exchange of information between the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as between regional organizations themselves, by making it more systematic; (c) to establish a global system to deal with current challenges and threats to international peace and security, with the United Nations as its coordinating centre; (d) to promote early coordination between the Council and regional organizations, especially before decisions that may involve or affect them are taken; and (e) to convene an international conference on international peace, under the auspices of the United Nations, which would be preceded by regional meetings on the subject.

Briefing on food insecurity as a threat to international peace and security

On 7 April the Security Council analysed, at a formal meeting, Africa's food crisis as a threat to peace and security. The Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), James Morris, said that 200 million people in Africa were malnourished, and that 50 million people were at risk. He said that WFP needed adequate resources to meet those needs.

The Executive Director commented that droughts, HIV/AIDS, lack of good governance, conflicts and failed economic policies were some of the main causes of that food crisis in Africa.

Wrap-up meeting

On 30 April, the Security Council held a public wrap-up meeting on the theme "The role of the United Nations in post-conflict situations".

The Secretary-General stressed the need for the Organization to draw on past experience so that the responses to crises would be as effective as possible. Some of the lessons he stressed were building trust between the parties so that peoples could become self-reliant; meeting the basic humanitarian needs, including those for security and public order to foster the conditions for developing viable political processes, as well as promoting reconciliation, good governance, the rule of law and transitional justice initiatives.

The delegations which took part in the debate stressed the positive role played by the United Nations in Timor-Leste, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. That experience, they said, could be drawn on in the case of Iraq. They noted that the

United Nations had taken an integrated approach, involving coordination of the joint work of all its agencies and between them and the countries interested in supporting reconstruction. The United Nations had also been assisted by the work of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations.

International Tribunal for Rwanda

On 29 April, a formal meeting was held to consider a letter dated 21 April 2003 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2003/467) transmitting a list of 35 candidates for posts of ad litem judges pursuant to article 12 ter, paragraph 1 (c), of the statute of the International Tribunal for Rwanda.

As a result of prior consultations in the Council and the informal working Group on the International Tribunals, the Council adopted resolution 1477 (2003) forwarding the list of nominations for ad litem judges to the General Assembly in accordance with article 12 ter, paragraph 1 (d), of the statute of the Tribunal.

Special event in the Council of the Americas

On 29 April, as part of the activities organized by Mexico during its presidency, a meeting was held in the Council of the Americas, New York, on the theme "The Security Council and civil society". The event was organized jointly with the International Peace Academy. The meeting divided into three panels which discussed the type of relationship civil society maintained with the Council, the information civil society provided to the Council and proposals for civil society to improve its input to the work of the Council.

Among the most important questions taken up during the meeting was the need for interested non-governmental organizations to communicate with the capitals where the final instructions on the various issues were decided upon. The added value of the field work carried out by non-governmental organizations and their usefulness in anticipating and preventing conflicts were recognized. Consideration was given to the possibility of the Council holding more thematic meetings that could provide a framework of rights and principles for the Council's various activities, and various measures were proposed for strengthening future work, including (a) holding more meetings using the Arria formula; (b) scheduling more missions by the Council to conflict zones; (c) appointing thematic rapporteurs; and (d) holding a monthly meeting of the Council with non-governmental organizations. In the final analysis, the meeting was seen as a specific action that would contribute to smoother and more effective dialogue between the Security Council and civil society.

Concluding remarks

During the presidency of Mexico, a significant effort was made to promote transparency of the Security Council's methods of working with the States Members of the Organization. Periodic briefings were held by the President of the Council to deal with aspects of the programme for April. All requests for information by delegations were responded to and the information on the work of the Council on

the Internet page of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations was constantly updated. In addition, the practice followed during the presidency of Colombia in December 2002, of sending the political coordinators of Council members a daily information bulletin by e-mail and fax, was continued.

Appendix I

Resolutions and statements adopted in April 2003

Resolutions

Resolution number	*Date of adoption*	*Subject*
1473 (2003)	4 April 2003	The situation in Timor-Leste
1474 (2003)	8 April 2003	The situation in Somalia
1475 (2003)	14 April 2003	The situation in Cyprus
1476 (2003)	24 April 2003	The situation between Iraq and Kuwait
1477 (2003)	29 April 2003	International Tribunal for Rwanda

Statements by the President

Symbol	*Date*	*Subject*
S/PRST/2003/3	4 April 2003	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Appendix II

Statements to the press made by the President of the Security Council in April 2003

Burundi (3 April)

The members of the Security Council welcome the announcement by President Buyoya that, in accordance with the transitional Constitution, he will yield the presidency on 1 May to Vice-President Domitien Ndayizeye for the second phase of the transition. They pay tribute to President Buyoya's efforts to move the peace process forward.

The members of the Council call on the political parties and the Burundian people to continue to settle the issues linked to the restoration of peace in Burundi through dialogue and consultation.

Iraq (3 April)

Today the members of the Security Council heard a preliminary assessment of the humanitarian situation in Iraq presented by the Deputy Secretary-General, with the presence of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Ramiro Lopez da Silva.

The Council takes note of the comments of the Deputy Secretary-General, indicating that while there is not a critical situation at present, there still remains the danger of such.

The Deputy Secretary-General indicated that the United Nations flash appeal launched on 28 March, with a total requirement of $2.2 billion, already has pledges for $1.2 billion.

Members of the Council expressed concern regarding access of relief assistance to the Iraqi population. Following the adoption of resolution 1472 (2003), immediate measures have been taken for the prioritization of contracts and the coordination with neighbouring countries to establish alternative ports of delivery.

While the Deputy Secretary-General indicated that there are still 3,000 national United Nations staff on the ground and that deliveries are being carried out on a pragmatic basis, the Security Council stressed the coordinating role of the Secretary-General.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (8 April)

Members of the Security Council condemned the offensive launched by RCD-Goma in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and they enjoined it to recall its troops immediately to the agreed positions.

Members of the Council condemned the massacres perpetrated in the Ituri area and asked that the perpetrators be identified and brought to justice immediately. Additionally, they requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to initiate an investigation on these events and report to the Council as soon as possible. They called on the Ugandan forces to withdraw from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo without delay and recalled that, so long as they are deployed on the ground, these forces have the responsibility to ensure the safety

of the civilian population. They called on all parties to cooperate fully with the Ituri Pacification Commission, which has just started its work.

Council members demanded the immediate cessation of the fighting and massacres in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and of all that might delay or hinder the establishment of the institutions of the transition. They called on all Congolese parties, and those who have influence over them in the region, to ensure that the transitional Government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is established as soon as possible.

Members of the Council reiterated their full support for the role of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Somalia (14 April)

Members of the Security Council were briefed today by the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) on the report of the Panel of Experts mandated to collect independent information on violations of the arms embargo in Somalia and to provide recommendations on possible practical steps and measures for its effective implementation.

Members of the Council welcomed the report of the Panel and exchanged views on improving the implementation and enhancing the monitoring of the arms embargo in Somalia. They expressed their intention to continue the discussion within the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) on the observations and recommendations contained in the report. The recommendations invite all parties inside and outside Somalia to assume their responsibilities in the implementation of the arms embargo.

Members of the Council expressed their deep concern about the continued flow of weapons and military equipment from sources outside Somalia and called on all Member States to support and cooperate with the Panel of Experts re-established, in accordance with resolution 1474 (2003) in the implementation of its mandate.

Members also reaffirmed the importance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.

Kosovo (14 April)

Members of the Security Council strongly supported the decision of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo, Michael Steiner, to declare as having no legal effect the enactment of legislation on higher education by the Kosovo Assembly on 3 April 2003.

They expressed their concern about this action by the Assembly and called on the provisional institutions of self-government to focus their work on competencies under their purview, in a way fully consistent with resolution 1244 (1999) and the Constitutional Framework.

Members of the Council strongly reaffirmed the need for strict observance of resolution 1244 (1999) and full respect for the authority of the Special Representative.

Members of the Council reiterated their support for the process of transfer of competencies as set out in chapter 5 of the Constitutional Framework to the provisional institutions of self-government, in full compliance with the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999).

Members of the Council called on the provisional institutions of self-government and all the people of Kosovo to cooperate genuinely for this transfer to be successful.

Côte d'Ivoire (15 April)

Members of the Security Council welcomed the new decree delegating powers to the Prime Minister and the progressive formation of the Government of national reconciliation.

Members of the Council expressed serious concern following the recent violations of the ceasefire in Côte d'Ivoire. They called on all parties to respect the commitments they made and to immediately end attacks that undermine the continuation of the process of peace and reconciliation. They took note with satisfaction of the statement by President Gbagbo dated 11 April and called for its implementation. They also expressed their deep concern at the use of mercenaries, other foreign-armed elements, forced recruitment, including recruitment of children, and demanded that all parties refrain from these practices immediately.

Members of the Council called upon the parties to respect human rights and international humanitarian law.

Members of the Council called on the parties to continue to move the Linas-Marcoussis process forward, and reaffirmed their willingness to support the efforts of the parties in implementing their commitments. They reaffirmed their full support for the Monitoring Committee.

Members of the Council renewed their support for the French and ECOWAS forces. They called on donors to disburse the contributions they have announced to finance and, if possible, strengthen the ECOWAS force.

Members of the Council stressed again their concern about the humanitarian situation and called on Member States to respond to the appeal that would be launched at the end of the month in Abidjan and Geneva.

Members of the Council recalled their intention to travel in the near future to West Africa, in particular Côte d'Ivoire.

Burundi (16 April)

Members of the Security Council again paid tribute to the upcoming political change in Burundi and encouraged all parties in Burundi to pursue their efforts in favour of the implementation of the Arusha Agreement in the context of the second period of the transition. They underlined the importance of President Buyoya's commitment to the handover on 1 May. Members of the Council recommend to the political leaders of Burundi to continue permanently to seek consensus and shared management of public affairs.

Members of the Council welcomed the adoption by the Transitional National Assembly of the law on the punishment of crimes of genocide, war crimes and

crimes against humanity; and urged the Transitional National Assembly to make every effort to adopt the bill on provisional immunity in accordance with the Arusha Agreement.

Members of the Council urged the Forces nationales de libération of Agathon Rwasa to stop the hostilities immediately, to join the peace process without further delay, and to start negotiations with the Government.

Members of the Council paid tribute to the African Union for the deployment of observers and encouraged the deployment, without further delay, of the forces of the African mission. They called on the international community to mobilize the necessary funds to allow the deployment of the African mission when the necessary costings were available.

Members of the Council urged donors to support the economy of Burundi, to honour the commitments made at the Paris and Geneva Conferences, and to provide as a matter of utmost urgency budgetary and balance-of-payments support to the Government of Burundi, and to contribute generously to the transitional debt relief fund.

Members of the Council expressed their support for the facilitation efforts and to the regional initiative aimed at a return of peace to Burundi.

Central African region (17 April)

Members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh.

Members of the Council reiterated the importance of a comprehensive, integrated, resolute and concerted approach to the issues of peace, security and development in Central Africa.

They welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to dispatch a multidisciplinary mission to Central Africa to assess the implementation of that approach, as requested in the presidential statement of 31 October 2002 (S/PRST/2002/31).

They invited the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council at the end of that mission a report with recommendations on measures to be taken for the implementation of that global approach.

Members of the Council welcomed the ongoing consultations between the Secretariat and the Economic Community of Central African States for the preparation of the mission and the decision to associate that institution with the mission.

They expressed their support for the proposals made by the Secretary-General to strengthen the coordination between the diverse structures of the United Nations in the countries of the subregion and to promote the strengthening of the partnership between the United Nations system and Central African States.

Central African Republic (17 April)

Members of the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, General Lamine Cissé.

Members of the Council thanked the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of the political dialogue, the process of national reconciliation and the re-establishment of the rule of law in the Central African Republic.

While recalling their earlier condemnation of the March coup d'état, contained in the statement by the President of the Security Council of 20 March, members of the Council nonetheless welcomed the political progress in the Central African Republic, the call for a national dialogue and the appointment of a Government of National Unity, including the nomination of a respected Prime Minister.

Members of the Council consider it indispensable that the authorities of the Central African Republic elaborate a plan for the national dialogue, including a time frame, and hold elections as soon as possible.

They expressed the view that the resources currently available to the United Nations Office could provide support to the political process, including assistance that would be required to prepare for the future general elections.

Members of the Council reiterated their full support for the action of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the head of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic. They further reiterated their support for the efforts of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa and the African Union.

They also invited the donor community to help in the reconstruction of the country.

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait (18 April)

Members of the Security Council heard the presentation of the eleventh report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999).

Members of the Council call on all States, organizations and individuals that can support the ongoing investigations to step up their efforts and provide information that could lead to finding the whereabouts of the 605 missing Kuwaitis and other nationals.